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SIPDIS
FROM AA/S FELTMAN TO CDA CONNELLY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/13/2019
TAGS: [APER](#) [AMGT](#) [SY](#)
SUBJECT: KUDOS TO EMBASSY DAMASCUS

Classified By: NEA Acting A/S Jeffrey Feltman, reasons 1.4 (b and d)

Maura,

(C) We have come to expect timely and insightful analysis from you and your team, but your recent "Engaging Syria" series has been truly impressive. It has shaped the Department's thinking as we undergo a comprehensive review of our Syria policy and has been used throughout Washington as policy-makers and analysts assess the best options for a way forward. Moreover, your reporting has informed policy discussions extending beyond Syria. I myself have referenced your cables in meetings focused on countering Iran's regional influence and constraining Hamas. Your cables have set a high standard and we look forward to more of the same. I have full confidence that you and your team are up to the challenge.

(U) Finally, I just want to say thank you to everyone at Post for the terrific support provided to the large number of delegations visiting Damascus in recent weeks. I know the toll these can take on Post's resources. I expect delegations will continue to add Syria to their itinerary, and I want to assure that all of us in Washington stand by ready to support you.

Best,

Jeff
CLINTON